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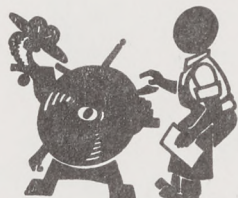
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SEE YOU IN CHURCH SUNDAY



MONDAY, AUGUST 16

Tune in to God

READ EPHESIANS 5:15-20

Bible Thought: "Even so let your light shine before men; that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven" (Matthew 5:16).

DO YOU make the most of your every-day opportunities to do good? You may think you don't have any. Perhaps it's because you are not looking. Pray that the Lord will give you the opportunities and the insight to recognize them. Your opportunity might be helping a blind person across the street, or assisting a retarded child at a bus stop. It could be pulling a stranded motorist's car off the freeway. It might just be talking to or listening to a lonely, old person. Use the opportunity to tell the person you help about Jesus.

Is your life controlled by the Holy Spirit? Do you know what he wants you to do with your life? If not, perhaps it is because you are not tuned in to what God's message is for you.

Are you wondering how to know what God wants you to do? It can be done by first turning over every aspect of your life to God. You must keep the lines of communication open between you and God. You must talk to him through prayer and listen to what he says to you through studying his Word.

Hymn: "Take My Life."

Father, we pray that you will give us opportunities to do good. Also, give us the courage to take advantage of those opportunities. In Jesus' name. Amen.

—NANCY BLACK

WEDNESDAY IS THE DEADLINE!!

Okay, all you Reporters, Secretaries of Clubs and Parishes, Columnists, Clergy and anyone else who submits articles for the MCC News. We love you for the copy and couldn't do it without you, BUT, in order to have some kind of order and schedule, we have established a Wednesday evening deadline. Definitely, positively, no exceptions allowed if you want your article in that week's issue. Otherwise it will be held over for the next week.

Have Mercy On Us, Please! We just can't possibly type your articles and get them ready for paste up, make the plates and print hundreds of copies by Sunday morning if everyone hands in their copy on Friday evening.

If you could type your own articles at least once. Check it over for clarity and spellings, double spaced so that we can easily and quickly read it and type it off real fast, then we will have a little extra time to ourselves and loved ones. You CAN, of course, submit them as early as you are ready. Anytime BEFORE Wednesday, would be real nice. This is wonderful work but really it can get exasperating at times with so much to do and no one around to help.



A VIEW FROM THE PEW

Sunday - August 8th

by Al Correa

I really didn't intend to start attending 9 O'clock services regularly. I spend a lot of time working for the Church these days and the relaxation of spending a self-indulgent Sunday morning sleeping late is a dimly remembered pleasure that I wanted to experience now and again. But I kept thinking about Rev. Jon Bullock's beautiful Service and there I was again on August 8th.

Today I brought along a guest from out-of-town who had never attended any Metropolitan service because I wanted to get the reaction of an outsider, so to speak to the 9 AM and the 11 AM services.

Deputy Deacon Shawn Farrell assists Rev. Bullock regularly. With her short hair and her scrubbed face innocent of any makeup, she looks like a young acolyte.

We were in for a bonus today! With what must surely be an organizational miracle of some sort, a Liturgical Choir has formed itself, carefully rehearsed for a week, and sang beautifully. It wasn't surprising to note that the new Liturgical Choir draws its members principally from among people who are active members, involved busy people who always seem to find just a little more time to work enthusiastically at some new endeavor. At future services they may experiment with Gregorian Chants. Their dedication deserves our congratulations and heartfelt thanks.

Rev. Bullock is a fine speaker. This morning his sermon was structured around an anecdote from the time when he was Pastor of a small church in Santa Cruz. I can't say more because the story, though moving, would not be the same without the element of Rev. Bullock's beautiful delivery.

One thing I particularly remembered was Rev. Bullock's prayer right after the Ushers completed the Offering.

Rev. Bullock said "These are the symbols of ourselves O God, take them unto you..." This is only a fragment of course.

This morning our pastor presented a sermon containing many fine points. The overall message was "Be Yourself". Rev. Perry started with an anecdote of the many people he had met since founding our Church. One of the questions he's been frequently asked at public appearances and in private meetings is "Does God want you to change?"

Wow!!! What a question! Each Sunday I get to bend your ear with a lot of highly personal comments, but I'm always just speaking for Albert Correa, not for my idea of what God wants! But our Pastor rose to the occasion, saying "...I love our heterosexual friends. God must have known that it was going to be more difficult to be a heterosexual than a homosexual, because there are 363 comments in the Bible against heterosexual sex acts whereas there are only 6 comments against homosexual acts! God wants you to be YOU. God has given you a personality. Can an Ethiopian change the color of his skin? Can a leopard change his spots?" Speaking of changes and research Rev. Perry said "I'm interested in knowing the reasons for my sex drives, but you can't change me. You are the way you are because God made you that way. God wants homosexuals to change and heterosexuals to change...not in their sex drives, but in their hearts! If you're thinking about changing, change to HIM."

Rev. Perry's closing prayer said "...we're thankful because You created us the way we are. Help us to be Gay and proud. In Your Holy and precious name, we pray."

As usual, there were many other beautiful things in the Service - Deacon Karen Gregg read a beautiful piece called "Slow me Down, Lord." We don't see enough of Deacon Karen, her lover, Lyn Hallett was there today also. Deacon Tom Purcell spoke today saying "...Welcome to the Church of Love...welcome to MCC."

I wanted to make this brief, but I keep remembering special things, like the Chancel Choir's rich voices singing "One God", such beautiful harmony

that they truly made it an uplifting spiritual experience. And of course Rev. Ploen's participation (which is something I always privately look forward to). He said Jim Hobby (who conducts a psychology instruction class at church 9:30 AM on Sundays) was in the hospital with a strep infection. Terry Luton is recovering from surgery. Rev. Ploen's prayer, being longer than usual, but then I only got a small part. This is all I got for those of you who were on vacation or out of town: "...we come into Thy Sabbath quietness. Cleanse us. Our bodies are weary with the toil and strife of a hostile world. We yield to Thee, our best friend. Thirst is in our hearts and trust in Thee. As a congregation, may we have Thy light and help to plan wisely for the days ahead. May no brothers of ours be beyond Thy mercy and care."

About 15 men and women from the Fresno Mission visited us this Sunday! Also present was the former Editor of the Prodigal, Ed Breton, Asst. Pastor Howard Williams of MCC-San Diego; Tony DuBois' mother; and (from out of state) John & Don from Mass. and Bob from New York.

The service concluded, I asked my guest from New York who had attended both services for his opinion of the two. This whole scene being a bit new to him, he admitted that he preferred the 9 AM service, but found more relevance to Rev. Perry's message.

The Crescendos sang a selection from "Jesus Christ - Superstar". We are so fortunate to have this competent and dedicated trio as active members of our Church!

God bless and keep all you dear friends till next Sunday.



FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Char-Lou and Jan, newly accepted MCC members, have collected at the Circle Bar downtown at 5th and Hill Streets, over \$20.00 towards the Air Conditioning Fund. It will be growing more this week and will be matched by these ladies today in a special collection.



THE MCC SILENT CHOIR GROWS....

The Lord really blessed our last Sign Language Choir practice. We had twenty beautiful hands belonging to ten beautiful people (Jim, John, Dick, Ben, Allen, Carl, Jon, Marty, George and Dale). The Silent Choir will meet again Monday night at 7 PM in the Choir Room. This is a very important meeting as we will be making final plans for our uniforms. Also General Conference is just around the corner and we need to put the finishing touches on our choir selections. The Lord's Prayer will be one of our best presentations.

There is still time to join us before General Conference. This Silent Choir is for the deaf AND those who can hear. Like Rev. Perry said, how else are you going to be able to communicate with our deaf brothers and sisters unless you learn their language. A few easy signals is a lot more convenient than wishing you had a pad and pencil. It could very easily become a method to outwit the straights and those others.

Come and join us Monday at 7 PM in the Choir Room.

P.S. We'd sure like to see some women in the group too.

Carl A. Argila
747-5014

ORANGE COUNTY NEWS

Rev. Evelyn Kinser will be preaching tonight, August 15th, at Christ Chapel MCC in Orange County. Rev. Evelyn is one of the Founders of the Women's Action Committee.

Services are: 1259 Victoria Street
Costa Mesa, Calif.
Time: 7 PM Phone: 714-548-6868

Come hear our Sister tonight!



FROM THE PASTOR'S OFFICE

Plans for General Conference are going strong and we've received word from nearly everyone of our Churches and Missions that they will have their delegates and ministers here in LA for that weekend. There will also be individuals here from the other cities to observe and learn more about our Fellowship.

As you already may know, we are housing everybody that comes to town that week for the conference. If you have a spare bed or an extra room please see me at Church or call me at the office during the week. For all of you who have offered accommodations, if you can please still hold your place until that weekend, we really would appreciate it, because there will be some people arriving that weekend without prior notice.

We have a Transportation Committee headed by Russell Quest, who will be in charge of meeting people at the airport, etc. and bringing them to the Church. Also, if you can attend the Conference yourself it would help tremendously.

This coming week on Wednesday, Rev. Perry will be speaking at Dr. Clay Colwell's class on Criminology at Long Beach City College. On Friday, he'll be speaking at an encounter group for youth at the National Conference of Christians and Jews. It will be held in the mountains above Redlands and there will also be a speaker from Women's Liberation. Rev. Hose spoke for a similar group last month and reported that it was very interesting and fruitful.

Before closing, please remember that anything that is to appear on the Bulletin Board must be approved by the Church Office or by Lee Sharp before it is put up. The reason behind this is to avoid clutter and to make certain that there is not anything on the Board which might offend someone.

Kevin McCain



DELEGATES FOR GENERAL CONFERENCE

The following is a list of the delegates and alternate delegates representing L.A. who will be attending the General Conference of the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches.

Delegates	Alternate Delegates
Pat Vestal	Al Correa
Connie Vaughn	Howard Coburn
Tom Purcell	Dick Sommers
Don Hughes	Shawn Farrell
Terry Luton	Jon Bullock
Bill Thorne	Larry Long

If you have any suggestions for changes, additions or what have you for the Fellowship, please write them down and see at least one of your delegates. Our job and/or obligation as a delegate is to represent YOU, so help us to help you express your wishes at the General Conference. Make your voice heard. I am in the publications office every day and I am interested, so don't wait. Do it now.

I would also like to thank everyone who voted for me for their vote. I feel that every vote I received was a vote of confidence. I am very honored to be a delegate and pledge my best effort for you.

Connie Vaughn
MCC News Editor



HIGH LIGHTS

Breakfast on a beach, dinner under trees; tenting in the rain, swinging in the breeze; doing something different, going someplace new; surely that's vacation for me and him and you!

- Sunshine Magazine



CHANGE YOURSELF?

by T'Beau

Erik and I have been attending the 11 AM Sunday service for several months now and I have always looked forward to Rev. Perry's sermons. He speaks with forthright clarity and enthusiasm, dwelling not upon the sins of mankind, but upon the good and the love within each of us.

This week's sermon was on changes, the changes that we should make rather than the wistful, daydreaming kind we might like to make. God made each of us a little different, according to his plan, and I don't think He's going to change His mind in mid-stream.

But God, in His wisdom, did not pre-determine everything for us, He gave us the freedom of choice and coupled with it, He also gave us the opportunity to grow. Just as our muscles will grow and become stronger as we use them, so will our minds and our hearts. The muscles, the mind, and the heart all work together, for by working together, we begin to understand each other, and only through understanding can love grow.

These are the changes of which Rev. Perry spoke, the changes God encourages and enjoys seeing in all of us. The first step toward growth is to know ourselves, to accept what we can not change, to believe that God created us in His image, and to realize that He loves us as His children.

Where do you keep MCC's Crisis number? Will you have it handy when you need it?



CHRIST FOR THE WHOLE WORLD



THE FRESNO BULLETIN

Vol. I

Issue 3

Published by MCC
for the Gay Community.

MISSING LETTERS:

The Fresno Guide has faithfully published letters from readers condemning homosexuals. MCC has faithfully replied to each letter defending the rights of all people to be themselves but not one has been published. Do we detect a possible bit of prejudice in the free press?

BED OF PANSIES:

It was once said to a member of the Committee for Sexual Freedom who was advertising the recent march for gay rights that he was stirring up trouble for no reason. Gays enjoy freedom behind closed doors. The only possible thing we could want that we don't have is the right to have sex on the streets. He says that the committee is lying back in a bed of pansies shouting to everyone they are gay. The Bulletin agrees that everyone has a right to privacy and that wisdom and discretion should always be exercised. We have seen no evidence to indicate that the Committee for Sexual Freedom advocated public sex. When a concerted effort is made by concerned individuals to change laws which produce a dehumanizing fear of discovery for members of our minority culture, we feel such efforts are worthy of support by the gay community.

OUR FAVORITE PLACE:

The progress of the Fresno Mission is being followed by the gay communities in LA, San Diego, San Francisco, San Jose and Sacramento. When in Fresno, they will be sure to stop by and say thanks to Ann and her crew for their help.



LITURGY: Meaningless Ritual or
Redemptive Action
by: Jon Bullock

Many valid questions have arisen over the nine o'clock liturgical worship service. It may seem strange to some that a conservative Presbyterian should attempt to write on the meaning of liturgy; stranger yet that he should conduct a formal liturgical service. Part of our confusion lies in a definition of terms; liturgy does not mean ritual, rather it means the "office" or job of the people of God. Therefore a liturgical service is one in which the doctrine of the "Priesthood of the Believer" is exercised to its fullest extent; the service is completely responsive. Was this not one of the basic tenets of the Reformation?-- to give the laity back their "office" as a priest before God. The redeemed people of God must never be just spectators watching what others do, therefore a liturgical service involves everyone in prayers, responses, and praise. Even our prayer of Consecration is responsive, where we, as a holy priesthood before God pray that He will bless and sanctify our gifts of bread and wine.

Some will say that they agree with me to this point but will quickly add: "I don't believe in all that symbolism." Yet not one of us lives a single day of our lives without symbols. Words are symbols! I can say "I love you" but that is just symbolic of an inner reality. In a liturgical service every word, every action, is meant to remind us of some aspect of the Gospel -- the good news of our salvation.

Further, a liturgical service attempts to appeal to all of our God-given senses. We sing, "When I survey the Wondrous Cross ... see from

His head, His hands, His feet, Sorrow and love flow mingled down..." In a liturgical service we go one step further, we portray this in meaningful action. So often we who have such a sacramental and incarnational faith are so vague and "spiritual" in our worship. Christianity is not a "spiritual" religion; this is part of the uniqueness of our faith, setting us apart from other world religions. Christianity is "real", it is down to earth, it is incarnational, it is sacramental.

Remember too that all of the early Reformers of the Church retained in their orders of service the ancient canticles, prayers and litanies. The Nunc Dimittis, Agnus Dei, Kyrie, and Magnificat (entirely Scriptural in their content) have been used by the Church for 10 - these two thousand years. I feel that the timelessness of these ancient liturgies can better meet the needs of our troubled world than anything I could possibly say.

If you have any questions concerning this service, why not join us for worship next Sunday when we will begin to discuss the meaning of the various parts of the service. Sunday, August 22, we will be discussing the meaning of the Vestments.

NORTHEAST PARISH ELECTION!!

On Tuesday August 17 at 7:30 PM the Northeast Parish, led by Deacon Tom Purcell, will hold elections for the following offices:

Co-ordinator

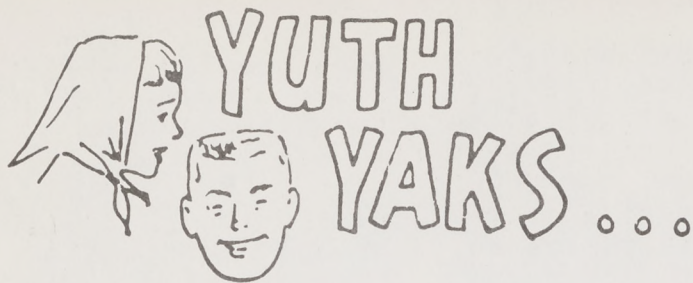
Alternate Co-ordinator/Treasurer

Secretary

If you haven't attended a Parish meeting before, come join us! We will be choosing our new team, so if you have been wanting to become an active member of the Church, you might find your chance this evening!

Meeting will be at the Church. At this writing I don't know which room but try the Social Hall first.

Al Correa



Well our only requirements are that you be from age 13-20 and want to have lots of fun. Our Rap sessions are Wednesdays until the end of the summer and our meetings are every 1st and 3rd Fridays of each month. Well, that's all the tea for this week. Like always, keep the faith babe!

Ray Hicks, Moderator MCCYG-LA

RAP ON BROTHERS-RAP ON!

I have lots of good news to announce. First of all I'd like to tell you about our rap sessions again. They've really boomed. Last week we had 14 in attendance and for our meeting the same week, we had 23 in attendance, somebody has been doing their missionary work. Keep up the good work M.C.C.Y.G. members. At our meeting there were two donated tickets to the Lavender Ladies first dance, which were won by Lucky and Hiene, two of our members. Thank you whoever donated those two tickets.

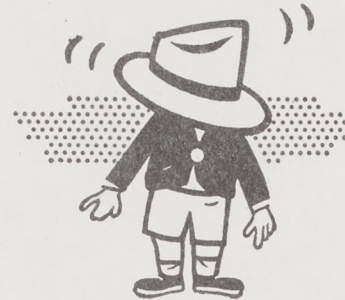
Our topic for discussion this week was drugs. And what a topic it was! We also spent some time working on youth group posters to be put up in several of the bars where some of the younger guys and gals go.

Well, our fun raising project was finally on the roll. The fans that you saw this morning were given to us by Harrison-Ross Mortuaries. They are being rented to the congregation before each service and are to be returned at the end of the service. The minimum donation per fan is 25¢. (All proceeds are going for the highly needed air conditioning system.)

Some more good news. I was elected the new moderator for the following three months. I'd like to thank each youth group member for your faith in me. I only hope that I will be able to do as well a job as those who have gone before.

We're now in the process of planning another dance before the end of the summer vacation. Other activities being planned are an overnight beach trip, a hiking trip, a Christmas play (that I'm personally looking forward to) and lots more where that came from.

Does this type of behavior sound interesting? Want to get involved?



SEZS THE MAD HATTER

Our Editor, Connie Vaughn, has asked me, of all people, to write a weekly column about a subject of my own choosing -- oh, what fun!

Well, I thought and I thought-- yes, I really can--and I decided to write about what you can do to make your party successful on a limited budget.

In the weeks to follow, I'll cover some of these subjects, imagination, party themes, decorations, guest participation, variety and simplicity.

If this column appeals to you (what a choice of words), let me know. If it doesn't, well--jump up and down and scream "Mary".

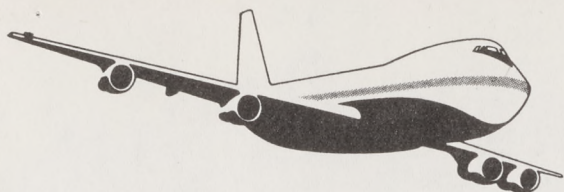
See ya,
Dick Durant
The Mad Hatter

SOMETHING COMING

WATCH FOR THE ANNOUNCEMENT

It's something new! And yet it's old





(Rev. Harrisons letter from Sweden)

Greetings from Sweden. Our trip began the day before we started when an 11 AM phone call brought the upsetting news that our inexpensive charter flight had been cancelled. If you're under 25 this is a problem because the "straight" scheduled flight is only \$42 more.

Our 1st surprise came when our 707 turned out to be a 747. What a way to fly! A proud bird, perhaps, but no golden tail. We rattled around in half-filled chambers. The "tourist" class section had 3 huge 9-across compartments. It was an exciting moment for Bill because he had never been on an airplane, and never been out of Calif. The service aboard was typical mediocre PanAm. When I asked for dramamine, it took half an hour to locate the pills. When I told the crew that there was 2" of water in one of the toilets, they thanked me for telling them, but it was obvious that they wouldn't have noticed it themselves, after all the plane was half-filled and they were hard-pressed to appear even half busy. The plane leaves LA at noon and it takes about 2 hours to do the big meal. Somehow the memorable entree escapes me at this moment. The stewardesses were kind to provide an unlimited free supply of beverages, etc. During the short night I managed to locate 4 empty seats for a nap. At times there was a feeling of movement, and occasionally a little turbulence, but mostly the flight feeling is one of suspended animation. Promptly at 7:30 AM we broke thru the clouds and landed at London's Heathrow airport.

We took the airport bus to town and taxied over to Don's house, 2 minutes from the Victoria Station. I wasn't quite prepared for the house that awaited us. It was about 15' wide and 1 floor. Don is in the process of completely modernizing it. Fireplaces are giving away to hot water heat. We climbed past stacks of copper pipe to leave our bags in one livable room on the 3rd floor. Ernie flaked out on the one visible bed, Bill and I climbed to

the 4th floor and discovered a modern sliding glass door leading to a roof garden covered with plastic grass. Can you imagine London being hot and sunny? Christopher and Tony said they would arrive at noon for lunch. Tony took a cab because he had never heard of Moreton Place. Neither had the cab driver because he was 45 minutes late. He eventually found us in a pub in the large Lyons house on Trafalgar Sq. We went upstairs where the 5 of us had a filling lunch for about \$5.25. Steak and kidney pie was better than in NYC. Christopher drove us thru the maddening London traffic in his Austin Mini. He has just been ordained in the Church of England and was very interested to hear about MCC. I managed to sleep soundly in the back seat.

The next morning we were all awake at 5:30, so we packed up and left our bags at the Victoria Station. When we stopped to buy tickets for the 11 AM Stockholm Express, the agent said, "That train is fully booked but you are early enough to still make the 8 AM train." There was no food on this train, so I rushed to the Train Bar for milk, settling for yogurt. The English Channel was as smooth as a bath tub. In Ostend we had time to walk thru the town and have a fish dinner. When the 4:57 train pulled in we found empty places in the Copenhagen car. Then we could sit down and breath a sigh of relief. Only when we met people who took the 11 AM train from London did we realize how fortunate we were to have awakened so early and been ready for the 8 AM train. The boat for the 11 AM train was so crowded that people with reserved seats were lucky to get a place to sit on the deck. Again we could say, "The Lord provides."

After sunshine and warm weather on the English Channel, it was almost too much to find the same in Denmark and Sweden. We have been in Uppsala 4 days now and the beautiful weather has continued. Bill and Ernie have gone off alone to Narvick, Norway in the land of the midnight sun. We meet tomorrow and go off to Helsinki for the weekend. A friend has invited me to visit him in Talin, Estonia on Monday. Uppsala's gay club is open every other Friday night, so I won't be able to give you any reports from that.

All good wishes,
Roger Harrison



An open letter to all our brothers and sisters in Christ from your Fresno MCC Mission:

God is bestowing everyone here in Fresno with the beauty of His Holy Spirit. As is to be expected when God moves many wonderful blessings have been showered upon us. I feel that we have been given a special blessing as well in that the heterosexual community has been so positively receptive to us since we have at last openly declared our presence in their midst. The most moving example of this receptiveness I wish to share with all of you.

Wed. June 16, 1971 was the 2nd meeting a small handful of us gay brothers and sisters had scheduled with the board of directors of the College Religious Center (not affiliated with Fresno State College but located directly across the street.) At the 1st meeting (5 gays and 6 straights, 4 of whom were ministers) we presented the board with the fact that we were homosexuals who desired a place in which to worship God. Although we had already been offered a church in which to worship, we chose to go to this particular board with our request to help make our presence known to the entire community. Since the full compliment of the board of directors were not present at this 1st meeting, the 2nd meeting was planned to include all board members as well as interested friends. There were also two reporters from the Fresno Bee, our local and most widely circulated valley newspaper.

At this second board meeting there were approximately 80 people. Ten gays, the rest straights with about 40 of those 70 people being ordained ministers of various denominations. We all sat in a large informal circle facing each other except for the overflow of guests who pulled up chairs around the edges. First the chairman of the board of directors at the College Religious Center

(and our great friend) introduced himself to the group and also introduced those of us who were to comprise a small panel. He asked that each individual then introduce himself declaring his status whether board member, guest or panel member and this was done. It had been explained that the panel would supply certain information to the group and then would entertain any questions from the floor. Our moderator was the chairman of the board of directors. The panel was opened with a short history of MCC given by Ray Cook then Deacon from MCC-San Francisco. (Ray Cook has since permanently relocated in Fresno and was just appointed our interim pastor by MCC-LA Board of Directors at the direct request of our mission group.)

Then followed personal testimonies from 4 of our group and when the questions asked had been answered to the satisfaction of all, we broke for coffee. Immediately following, we divided ourselves into 5 small discussion groups with 2 gays assigned to each. The units each elected an individual who was to report group findings back to the main body when we again assembled an hour and a half later. The 5 reports were given and once again a lengthy question and answer period was experienced. Then the meeting was adjourned.

It sounds like a fairly routine meeting but let me tell you friends, the Holy Spirit was there moving in our midst. So strong was the Spirit that an exhilarating excitedness charged the air permeating everyone there with tears of joy and filling minds and hearts with understanding and faces with smiles of happiness. We shared a fellowship of one Spirit. It is my sincere prayer that each human being will experience in his lifetime such a positive flow of love from the Creator in such a tangible way. Mere human words cannot possibly approach the moving experience that each one of us felt that night, but since that meeting, suffice it to say that God's Holy Spirit has been leading us in leaps and bounds toward our heavenly goal.

Next weekend we are privileged to

have your own Rev. Troy Perry here to speak to us and all of you are most cordially invited to attend. Social hour begins at 6:15 PM and services at 7:30 PM at 1362 N Street, Fresno. Afterward a huge Bar-B-Q at 11300 E. Sierra, Clovis, Calif. (Directions will be provided.) All of us in Fresno are anxious to welcome all of you to visit your new Fresno Mission as we would like to share with you our inspiration received from the Holy Spirit.

Our trip this past weekend to the Mother Church in LA was a beautiful and inspirational experience and we want to thank all of you for such a warm and loving reception. We will be looking forward to seeing each of our new friends again this coming weekend, so please try to be here.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Ann Husar



Everyone who is in any of the activities here, or who attends any of the parish meetings, is aware of the costs of your groups functions. Perhaps you just buy decorations, cups, punch or cookies, but, they all add up. The food & beverage purchasing dept. can now get such items for you cheaper, or at wholesale.

Tomorrow, Monday evening, at 8:00 PM there will be a meeting of all club, and parish leaders. May I urge the head of each function to attend. If it is impossible, please send a delegate. The purpose of this meeting is to acquaint everyone with the new services available through the food & beverage purchasing dept., as well as you informing the dept. of your needs so that purchasing may be done in accordance with need.

Don't Forget TOMORROW NIGHT IN THE SOCIAL HALL. ALL DEPARTMENT HEADS.

Jay

BEACH PARISH

The August 10th Beach Parish meeting was held Tuesday, at the home of the Deputy Deacon. There were 12 in attendance. Our guest speaker was Tom Purcell. We want to thank Tom for a wonderful speech. He led us in the evening prayer.

The last minutes were read by our Deputy Deacon. Our discussion on the Deacon's Closet was clarified (as to where the money was being spent). Reports on Knotts Berry Farm, Disneyland and Catalina tours were also discussed and planned for later dates.

Beach Parish members are considering a Beach Party later in September to raise money for the Parish and the Church. Plans are also being made for a New Year's Eve Dance, for all members and friends of the Church.

We have elected a Treasurer. He is Fred Worthington. It was suggested we have our next meeting at Farrells Ice Cream Parlor; Fred Worthington is going to check on this matter and you will be notified in advance on the place and date.

After all of the matters were taken care of, Tom Purcell talked about being "7 Day Christians or just a Sunday Christian," he did bring out a lot of very good points.

Response to the mailing cards, was very successful. Even though it's summer time and the evenings have been very hot, the attendance wasn't as good as I expected.

A member of the Beach Parish, suggested that we should all get together and spread the good work of MCC in bars and etc. There are many out there that do need that little push and I'm sure that we can do it. God loves us in so many ways and a helping hand is not going to hurt anyone.

At the end of the meeting, we sat around and had sandwiches, Hawaiian punch, wine punch and jello and really enjoyed the rest of the evening. Members and friends let's make the next meeting a larger attendance please?

Thank you.

Yours in Christ,
Fred H. Sferrazzo
Deputy Deacon

Why are hot days in the middle of summer called "dog days"? Because of an old Roman belief that the six or eight hottest days of the summer were caused by the Dog Star, Sirius, rising with the sun and adding its heat to the day.

ALCOHOLICS TOGETHER

Alcoholics together had it's beginning in October of 1969. A member of Alcoholics Anonymous became interested in the activities of the Metropolitan Community Church. His efforts to help alcoholic members of his church led to the meetings of alcoholic homosexuals called, Alcoholics Together.

Alcoholics Together was formed for the sole purpose of helping the alcoholic homosexual find a rewarding way of life without alcohol. Alcoholics Together uses the Alcoholics Anonymous program and it's members attend Alcoholics Anonymous meetings throughout the communities where they live. The Alcoholic Together groups use the A A twelve traditions as a guide in their affairs. They have almost no rules and depend upon the goodwill of members to maintain an atmosphere that make their meetings possible.

On Tuesday evening a discussion group meets at the Mary Lind Foundation. This meeting is restricted to male alcoholic homosexuals. Starting at the former MCC Parsonage on Virgil Avenue, the rapid growth of the group made it necessary to find a larger meeting place. The group now meets in the Mural Room of the Shoreham Hotel. All male homosexual alcoholics are encouraged to attend this meeting and share the benefits to be found there.

In June of 1970 some of the members felt they got so much out of the Tuesday night meetings and enjoyed the friends they met there so much that they started other meetings on Friday nights. The Friday night meetings are open to all alcoholic homosexuals, both men and women and their friends. Although this is a participation meeting, once a month the group turns the meeting over to two recovered alcoholics, who tell how they used to be and what they are trying to be like now. The Friday night group meets in Hollywood on Hollywood Blvd. one block from Grauman's Chinese Theatre. If you are homosexual and have a drinking problem we hope you will attend our Friday night meeting. Your friends are also welcome.

Most of us want to share what we have found with as many like ourselves as we can. We know that we help ourselves by helping others. Some of us have started attending church as part of our personal effort to try to improve our spiritual values and better our relationship with God. The result of all this is another meeting of Alcoholics Together on Thursday nights in the parlor of the Metropolitan Community Church at 8:30 P.M..

If you are a homosexual who maybe drinks a little too much and sincerely wants to do something about it, the most important day of you life may be the day you ask a member of alcoholics together about the simple program he lives by.

Those of us who are members of Alcoholics Together are always eager to welcome you to the fellowship. We can help, but the big job is up to you. It really works. It can and will work for you.

Alcoholism is an illness from which the homosexual can recover. The Metropolitan Community Church recognizes alcoholism as a disease. Anyone attending the Metropolitan Community Church needing help for himself, a friend or a member of his family is encouraged to call one of the phone numbers listed below. As with all illnesses, such inquiries will be treated as confidential.

MCC Crisis Intervention Center; Phone (213) 748-7176
Alcoholics Together; Phone (213) 664-8008

Note: Other alcoholics are encouraged to call the above numbers or the Alcoholics Anonymous phone number listed in your phone directory.

THE GREAT GIFT OF GOD

Ever since I was 16 years old, I have hidden my life as a homosexual. I have, until 4 months ago, lived 2 lives. The Lord has said that you cannot serve 2 masters. I have told some tales so that no one would know I was homosexual. When those tales came back to me, they were so changed that they upset me, also, I have lost some good jobs because of my life.

Well, 4 months ago, I made up my mind with the help of the Lord not to live a double life any longer. I met a very fine young man with whom I fell deeply in love. The Lord and my better half gave me the courage to admit to my mother the life I live. Her reaction was so beautiful that I know God has answered my prayers. She said that no matter what kind of life I chose, she still loved me and was proud that I had finally decided to stand up for what I believed.

I also learned that all people whether straight or gay in some little way admire you for standing up for what you believe in, that you have the courage to live your own life. Be proud of what you are, after all, think of all those phony tales that you don't have to make up anymore.

Yours in Christ,
Larry L. Wrona

SOUTH CENTRAL PARISH

The South Central Parish met at the home of Joe Burns this past Tuesday evening, August 10th. Our numbers increased slightly with our guests of Jay Getman and Ron Aviano. Our discussion centered around making South Central beneficial to each parish member and to the Mother Church. We, as a group, would like to see our parish meetings be a place where people can come together and get to know one another on an informal and social level. We also discussed ways to raise money for needed items around the church building. With this in mind, we are planning a White Elephant Sale in the Social Hall of the church. Watch for the date, which has to be cleared by the social committee. Anyone that has small items that can be

used for this sale, please contact anyone in the South Central Parish or Deputy Deacon, Jim Mason.

In our next meeting, we're having a very interesting guest (it's a surprise) as moderator for a question and answer Rap Session. It will be August 24th at the home of Ron Aviano. Again, many thanks to Joe Burns for the use of his apartment and all the goodies we had to munch on!

Love & Peace
Jim Mason



NEWS FROM THE HOLLYWOOD PARISH

This past Saturday the Hollywood parish held a beach party at Venice beach in front of the Westwinds Bar. We all had a very good time especially when it came time to eat. Larry and Herb brought a fabulous tossed green salad. They put just about everything in it except the kitchen sink. John Logan got up very early to fry three chickens. Several others brought soft drinks, potato chips, and sandwich makings. By the end of the day most of us looked like boiled lobsters.

Our next meeting will be held on Tuesday, August 17, at the home of Dick Durant. His address is 742 N. Orange Dr. phone number 939-4611. Please give him a call for directions.

This meeting is going to be a potluck dinner. Jerry and Ralph would appreciate a call so that they may coordinate the evening's meal. Come prepared to have a good time. Dick always plans the most interesting games. Remember our meeting will start at 7:30PM. We hope to see each and everyone of you this coming Tuesday.

Jerry Angus



REV. NASH FIGHTING BACK

The Council on Religion and The Homophile held a very fruitful meeting at ONE Inc. headquarters this past week for those interested in Rev. Richard Nash's arrest. Discussion on police entrapment policies, plans for using his incident to help further the benefit of all gays, formalizing and combining the entire gay communities and their several organizations support for his defense, drafting statements of solidarity to be presented to the clergy in the Council on Religion and the Homophile and a drive to seek support from all clergy, especially those in the top levels of religious organizations and denominations.

Besides MCC being present (Rev. Perry, Steve Jordan, Deacon Tom Purcell, Don Hughes and Marty Seneca), the Catholics Dignity, Gay Liberation Front, the Gay Community Alliance, ONE Inc., the Gay Fellowship, the Christopher Street West Coalition, straight clergy, and others were there.

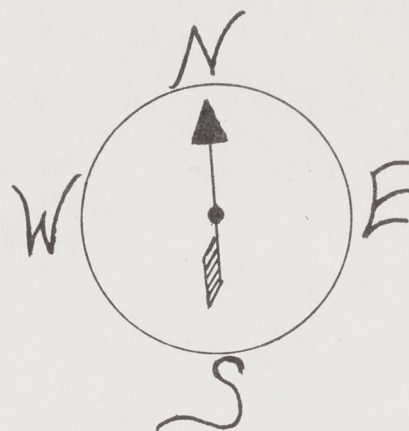
The statement calling for solidarity will be published and distributed to all interested organizations willing to help spread the word.

Dorr Legg, Jim Kepner, Morris Kight and several other leaders of the gay movement were present and gave support to Rev. Nash's pending battle in the courts. Rev. Nash introduced two young and able attorneys that will be defending him.

One of Rev. Nash's points of defense will be to try to reveal the police's continuous policy of creating incidents and excuses to make an arrest; prefabricating and down right lying about just what took place and to confront the courts with the dilemma of just who is lying, the clergyman or the police. The effort to enlist mass support from all the clergy as one body is the primary goal right now. Your support and

help to cause this to come about is needed, desired and appreciated. If you could get as many priests, ministers, bishops, and rabbis interested to come to Rev. Nash's cause, you will be helping your own gay self.

Marty Seneca
Asst. Editor



Last Sunday we attended MCC-San Francisco. Since business responsibilities took me to the Bay Area, Selma flew up to join me for the weekend. We welcomed the opportunity to visit our brothers and sisters at MCC-SF.

Pastor Howard Wells spoke effectively of finding love only when we are willing to GIVE love and to make ourselves lovable. (As I recall his message, I am reminded of the scripture, "Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us.") I John 4:10.

Pray with Rev. Wells, Rev. Alice Naumoff, their Deacons and the congregation that the Lord will provide a church building in which they may worship.

San Francisco is an interesting, even exciting city, but "home is where the heart is" and that's here at MCC-LA.

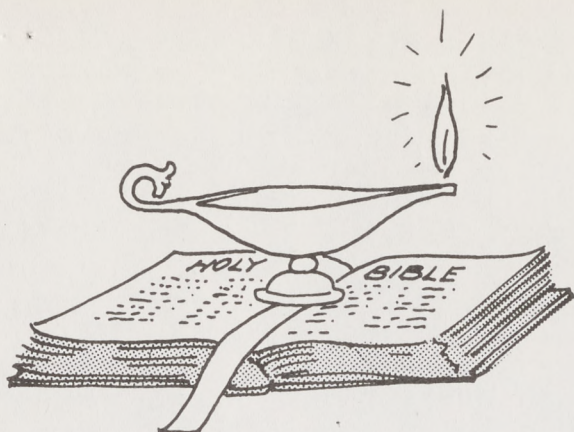
Evelyn Kinser

KNOW ALL MEN PRESENT

On behalf of the Women's Action Committee, I hereby appoint Albert Correa an honorary member of this committee.

Al has been wonderful in his coverage of our activities, his suggestions for further action and his encouragement.

Selma Kannel
for W.A.C.



BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Bob Darst -Born in Roanoke, Va., August 11, 1935.

Brought up alternately in the Methodist and the Presbyterian churches, but became a member of the First Christian Church of Roanoke, Virginia in 1952.

Was actively involved with that church, especially in the Christian Youth Fellowship, until shortly after High School graduation in 1954 when my Homosexuality was made known to my fellow "Christians" by an indiscrete acquaintance, and I was asked to disassociate myself from the Church.

Having difficulty accepting my sexual nature, I took the advise of a college professor who suggested that the best way to overcome "unnatural impulses" was to force myself into an all-male society where such activity was forbidden, and he recommended that I join the Navy. Naturally, I hope this "counselor" has found a better solution to give to other members of our community who have been to see him, because his advise was the worst that I could have taken. You do not fight desires by being thrown in the midst of constant temptation, and needless to say, I received a discharge from the service which was not "Honorable".

This is one reason I am so fond of the quotation "The Government gave me a medal for killing many men, and a Dishonorable Discharge for loving one."

Fortunately, during this time I had learned to accept myself as Gay, but even after I was discharged, I continued to live a "Closet" life. I was frequently a nervous wreck trying to protect my "image" with my business associates, and once again I turned to the church, hoping to find a solution to my anxieties.

This time I joined the Wilshire Christian Church in Los Angeles and was active some three years with the founding and leadership of the Kleitoi, a group of single adults who were most involved with the work of the church. One day I went in to see the pastor because I was at a very unhappy point in my life, having just lost a lover. When I turned to that "Man of God" with my problem, I was rebuffed and turned away from his office. Even the right to partake of Communion was denied me, and I felt that God had forsaken me.

For seven years I wandered without the comfort of the Christ which I had sought and then not long ago two very precious friends, Don Hughes and Tom Purcell, brought me to my first visit to M.C.C. at the Encore Theater and I have only missed a few services since then.

My Christ had not deserted me, but I had deserted him. Now I am proud to say that the Lord is my Shepherd and He knows I'm gay. It was the most thrilling Christian Experience in my life to realize that He accepts me and all my Brothers and Sisters in the Homophile Community.

It was during a silent prayer one Sunday, that I first felt the Lord calling me, and I was not sure what He wanted at that time. But I did know I was being led to join the Samaritan Bible Seminary by His will. It was not until two months later that I realized the full impact of that Call and that no other future lay ahead of me except to make my full commitment to Him to be one of his pastors. It was then I spoke to Rev. Perry and requested licensing as an Exhorter in the Church, and took instructions from him, and continued my Seminary studies.

Along with two fellow Seminarians, I volunteered to go to San Antonio, Texas when an offer from that city was made to the church that a mission there be organized, but communications failed and no reply to our inquiries was forthcoming, so it was with the greatest of joy that I learned from Rev. Perry that Pastor Ron Carnes has requested my presence as Asst. Pastor in Denver. God has answered my prayers to be of service. My academic training in the seminary is not yet complete, but my zeal and eagerness to share the Love of Christ and what that Love has meant to me is boundless.



TREASURER'S WEEKLY REPORT

DOLLARS & CENTS

What has the Lord done for you? We're so quick to drop our change in the collection plate on Sunday morn and spend our dollars in the local suds parlor and then complain about no drinking fountain, or how come the rest of the Church isn't finished.

We need money to reach out and help our brothers and sisters that are in need of help. There are people in our community that need jobs, need housing, need food, need clothes, need money for transportation to work when we get them jobs.

Our pledge offering is at a low low 40% of what is pledged. This week the loose offering was \$576.65, the envelopes \$396.25, and money received through the week \$492.62 with a total of \$1,465.52. Let the Lord Bless You in helping our people.

Pat Vestal
Treasurer

As part of our monthly "Meet Your Elected Officials",

THE GAY COMMUNITY ALLIANCE

presents

LOS ANGELES CITY COUNCILMAN

ROBERT STEVENSON

&

ATTORNEY SHELDON ANDELSON

speaking on Entrapment at the MCC
Main Sanctuary at 1:30 PM

Sunday, August 22, 1971

GCA Phone: 463-2058
\$1 contribution

SAMARITAN BIBLE SEMINARY will begin the Fall Quarter on September 20th. Anyone interested in applying should contact the Dean of the Seminary for an application and information.

Classes will be held on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday nights starting at 7:30 PM and will be two hours in length.

The curriculum and instructors have been arranged.

New students may enter at any quarter of the two year program.

The cost is \$1.00 per unit, or \$6.00 per quarter. Auditors fee is \$2.00 per unit.

Inquiries should be made to Dean Rich Ploen, Samaritan Bible Seminary, 2201 South Union Avenue, Los Angeles, California 90007.

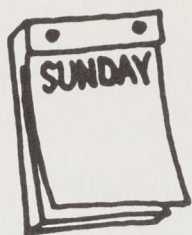
Beginning Communication With The Deaf classes will be held by The Academy on Sunday morning at 9:30 AM.

You may still register next week. The cost is \$1.00.

Come and learn to communicate with your deaf brothers and sisters.

**Do I ever wish
I wasn't a girl!**





Our Church Calendar

MONDAY, AUGUST 16TH	7:30 PM	SIGN LANGUAGE CHOIR Choir Room
	8:00 PM	FOOD & BEVERAGE PURCHASING DEPT. MEETING WITH ALL ORGANIZATIONS
TUESDAY, AUGUST 17TH	7:30 PM	NORTHEAST PARISH MEETING Social Hall
	8:00 PM	HOLLYWOOD PARISH MEETING 742 N. Orange Drive Telephone : 939-4611
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 18TH	7:30 PM	KOOL-AIDS RAP SESSION
	8:00 PM	LONG BEACH PARISH BUSINESS & BIBLE STUDY MEETING Tino's, 356 E. 7th Street
	8:00 PM	WEDNESDAY NIGHT PRAYER MEETING Main Sanctuary
THURSDAY, AUGUST 19TH	6:00 PM	LITURGICAL CHOIR REHEARSAL
	7:00 PM	CHANCEL CHOIR REHEARSAL
	7:30 PM	C.I.C. MEETING Seminary Room
	8:30 PM	ALCOHOLICS TOGETHER MEETING Church Social Hall
FRIDAY, AUGUST 20TH	7:30 PM	KOOL-AIDS MEETING
SATURDAY, AUGUST 21ST	10:00 AM	CHURCH CLEANING
	8:00 PM	GROOVY GUY CONTEST Sheraton-Universal Hotel Tickets at the Publications Dept.
	8:00 PM	PRAYER MEETING
SUNDAY, AUGUST 22ND	8:30 AM	LITURGICAL CHOIR REHEARSAL
	9:00 AM	HOLY COMMUNION



9:30 AM	ACADEMY
9:30 AM	COFFEE SOCIAL HOUR
10:00 AM	CHANCEL CHOIR REHEARSAL
10:30 AM	SINGSPIRATION
10:45 AM	CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL Seminary Class Room Teacher: Steve Jordan
11:00 AM	SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE
7:00 PM	CHRIST CHAPEL MCC COSTA MESA Rev. Evelyn Kinser Preaching 714-548-6868
7:00 PM	EVENING SERVICE

DID YOU THINK TO PRAY?

It is not a difficult thing to learn how to pray. It is not the words we use particularly that constitute a prayer. Faithful, true, earnest prayer consists more in the feeling that rises from the heart and from the inward desire of our souls to supplicate our Lord in humility and in faith, so that we may receive his blessings. It does not matter how simple the words may be if your desires are genuine and you come before our Lord with a "broken heart and contrite spirit" to ask him for what you need.

When you do pray...do you go through the operation like a piece of machinery, or do you bow in meekness and with a sincere desire to seek the blessing of God upon you and your fellowman? That is the way that we should do and cultivate a spirit of devotion and trust in God, dedicating ourselves to Him, and seeking His blessings.

Our Heavenly Father many times answers our prayers not by bringing down his will to ours, but lifting us up to His. We can bear the loaded burdens without asking to have it lightened. We grow strong-mentally and physically-so as to need no longer cry for relief. We can keep the sorrow and endure it. We have not been rescued from the battles we have shrunk from entering, but have sought and gained the victories. Is not peace

in the midst of the storm and the conflict better than to be lifted altogether over the altercation? Is not victory in strife better than being disengaged from the struggle?

As one of my favorite songs go:
 "More holiness give me, more strivings within;
 More patience in suff'ring, more sorrow for sin;
 More faith in my Savior, more sense of His care;
 More joy in His service, more purpose in prayer.

More gratitude give me, more trust in the Lord;
 More pride in His glory, more hope in His word;
 More tears for His sorrows, more pain at His grief;
 More meekness in trial, more praise for relief.
 More purity give me, more strength to o'er-come;
 More freedom from earth-stains, more longings for home;
 More fit for the kingdom, more used would I be;
 More blessed and holy, more Savior like Thee."

Kitty L



SPREE
BOYS IN THE BAND
PAT ROCCO

They have done it again. Done it well and professional. Even though SCAG was there to protest I'm not sure they knew just what they were protesting, maybe they should join SPREE?

To begin with, I and my companion Bob Foster were honored with tickets from SPREE to MCC Newsletter Staff. Connie asked me to take her place and I was happy to take the assignment. We received 2 fine seats, front and center in the Ivar Theatre which is one of the smallest I've seen in a time. There's about 250 seats with about 75 in the balcony. It can't help but be cozy with the stage. Seeing and hearing was no problem.

The apartment setting looked comfortable, tasteful and the upstairs with it's penthouse roof was artistically done. This was my first impression looking at the setting before the play began, (there was no curtain) and when the stage lights were lit, it was even much better. The audience showed their approval. We had a full house with MCC well represented.

My first caution in trying to review SPREE's Boys In The Band was to avoid comparing it with the movie version. To hope that they could do as fine, I thought, would be unfair. Of course, the stage and film are two separate mediums. Much of the two are similar and on the same plane, but the stage has the advantage of being closer and more personal and therefore more demanding. Film re-takes and sound techniques really make a movie much easier. So in any good comparison I would make, SPREE's production has to be a bit better. Any bad comments resulting from comparing SPREE with the movie version would be unjust, I feel.

I myself liked Cowboy, Joel Ian Polis. Besides being my type, I really believe he played the dumb hustler better than the movie version. His continued naivete and ignorant mind trying to keep up with the fast double innuendos of a gay bitch session was marvelous.

At first I didn't think Alan was tall enough for the part but of course his height has nothing to do with the character. I believe he did just as well as that other version. His pleadings with Hank to not do this or that, to leave with him from these terrible surroundings, all brought out his role as well as possible. I just can't picture the real Fred Hodel possibly being gay, he plays it so straight. No offense Fred.

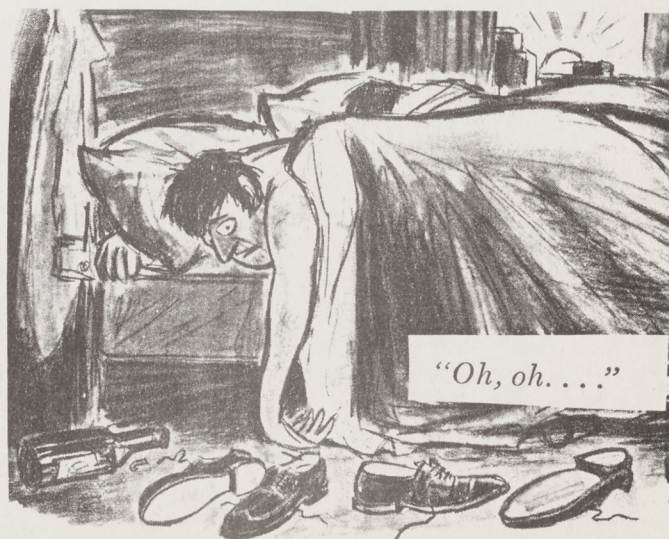
When the lovers Larry and Hank appeared, (John Town & John Headrickson) they eventually proved to be perfect typical gay lovers. Hank's confession to Alan about his arrangement and Larry's adamant explanation of his promiscuity were both dramatic, heart-rending and true pathos.

At the end, the audience responded with delightful and excited applause. There were two curtain calls and Emery got the noticeable rise in appreciation and applause. Everyone loved her.

Mr. Pat Rocco has done a superb job and deserves the best of compliments.

I heartily recommend you all to see it.

Marty S.



PAT ROCCO

IN ASSOCIATION WITH THE SPREE THEATRE PLAYERS

PRESENTS

Mort Crowley's
**The BOYS IN
THE BAND**

Produced by PAT ROCCO
Directed by PAT ROCCO

LIMITED
ENGAGEMENT

PREVIEWS BEGIN

AUGUST

6th

AT REDUCED RATES

OPENS

AUGUST

16TH



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THEATRE

HOLLYWOOD

1605 N. IVAR

NEAR SELMA

For Reservation

CALL

464-7121